

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 07759 111334Z

46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 /152 W

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R 111214Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6617

INFO MTN GENEVA 2945

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS VIENNA 7759

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EALR, ETRD, AU, UR

SUBJECT: AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES BENEFIT FROM AUSTRIAN TARIFF REDUCTION
FOR SOVIET CARS

REF: CERP ALERT

1. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1 AUSTRIA WILL REDUCE CUSTOMS DUTIES APPLICABLE TO PASSENGER CARS IMPORTED FROM SOVIET UNION FROM 20 PERCENT TO 8 PERCENT AD VALOREM. AUSTRIANS HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SUCH A BILATERAL TARIFF REDUCTION ON AUTOMOBILES AT MARCH 1974 MEETING OF THE AUSTRIAN-SOVIET COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. LOWER RATE WILL APPLY TO AUTOMOBILES WHOSE BODY IS MADE OF SHEET METAL WITH MINIMUM THICKNESS OF 0.7 MILLIMETERS AND WITH MINIMUM GROUND CLEARANCE OF 17 CENTIMETERS. PERTINENT EXCHANGE OF NOTED PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL LAW GAZETTE NO. 460/154, AUGUST 28, 1975, COPY OF WHICH BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. AUSTRIAN TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD ECON COML/COUNSELOR THAT
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 07759 111334Z

CONCESSION WILL ALSO APPLY TO IMPORTS OF U.S. AUTOMOBILES IN

ACCORDANCE AUSTRIA'S GATT-MFN OBLIGATIONS. SOURCE INDICATED THAT IT HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHETHER TARIFF REDUCTION ALSO WOULD BE APPLIED TO IMPORTS FROM JAPAN.

3. TARIFF CUT TEMPORARILY PLACES U.S. AUTOMOBILES ON SAME TARIFF LEVEL AS IMPORTS FROM EC. HOWEVER, AUSTRIAN DUTIES ON EC-ORIGIN AUTOMOBILES WILL BE REDUCED TO 4 PERCENT AD VALOREM ON JAN. 1, 1976 AND TO ZERO THE FOLLOWING YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, PRESENT TARIFF REDUCTION CAN BE EXPECTED TO HELP SALES OF AMERICAN CARS IN AUSTRIA AND EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT US MANUFACTURERS BE IN

FORMED OF AUSTRIAN ACTION.

4. IN 1974, AUSTRIA IMPORTED 619 AMERICAN PASSENGER CARS VALUED AT \$2.7 MILLION (0.7 PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS). IMPORTS IN FIRST QUARTER 1975 WERE 25 PERCENT HIGHER THAN DURING COMPARABLE PERIOD PREVIOUS YEAR. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

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